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**Congress of the United States**

**House of Representatives**

**Karen McCarthy**

**COMMITTEE ON ENERGY  
AND COMMERCE**

SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY AND AIR QUALITY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND  
THE INTERNET

SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
ENVIRONMENT AND  
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS  
STEERING COMMITTEE

June 12, 2002

The Honorable Michael K. Powell  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Room 8-B201  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing to request that careful and comprehensive review be given to the proposed merger between EchoStar communications and Hughes Electronics.

Consumers will benefit from access to new and emerging technologies in communication and the media. Your evaluation of the pending merger on the merits for the betterment of the consumers created by joining the two largest satellite television providers in our nation is essential to the integrity of current law. Quantifying the potential benefits to consumers by the merger such as greater enhanced services, additional local station choices, and a nationwide price structure represent compelling reasons to approve the EchoStar and Hughes merger. I am keenly aware of the importance which technology developments have meant in our business and private lives. Affording greater access to maximizing spectrum efficiency for educational, personal, and industry access remains a vital goal.

In my work in the Congress, I have focused on bridging the gap of the digital divide. This merger could bring us closer to conquering the digital divide. Your attention to the review and consideration of the EchoStar and Hughes merger is greatly appreciated.

Best personal regards,

Karen McCarthy

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